

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application; claims 1, 6, and 19 being independent. In light of the remarks made herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Suzuki* (USP 6,111,605) in view of *Sakaegi* (USP 5,808,678); and rejected the remainder of claims using a variety of combination of references. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview conducted on April 29, 2003. It is respectfully submitted that the remarks herein are made consistent with the discussions during the interview.

Claim Rejections

During the interview conducted on April 29, 2003, the parties agreed that *Suzuki* fails to teach the claimed element of the principal subject determining device as recited in independent claims 1, 6, and 19. It was further agreed that the Examiner would withdraw the finality of the last Official Action and would further withdraw the pending claim rejections.

Based upon Applicants' submission of this Reply, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn based upon the agreement that the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest a principal subject determining device as claimed in the independent claims.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at (703) 205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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